

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

List of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A real-time inventory status and information system comprising:

a database, wherein the database stores at least on-hand, reserved, and ordered inventory information associated with a plurality of inventory items;

a client, wherein the client provides a user interface to the system, and wherein the user interface permits selection of at least one of the plurality of inventory items and requests inventory information associated with the selected inventory items;

a server, wherein the server provides the client with real-time inventory information associated with the selected at least one inventory item by transmitting to the client updates to the at least a subset of the inventory information requested by the client as such inventory information changes; and,

a communication interface, wherein the communication interface provides access to the database, the interface communicating between a the server and the database;

~~—at least one client, for providing a user interface to the system, wherein the at least one client can communicate with the server via wireless communications and the at least one client can the display inventory information associated with an inventory item selected from the plurality of inventory items; and,~~

~~a server, wherein the server provides real-time access to at least a subset of the inventory information associated with the selected inventory item by pushing the inventory information to the at least one client when the at least a subset of the inventory information associated with the particular inventory item changes in the database.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1, ~~in~~

- ~~which~~ said server comprising ~~is comprised of~~ a web server.
3. (Currently Amended) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim ~~4~~ 2,
~~in which~~ said client comprising ~~is comprised of~~ a web browser.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1,
~~wherein~~ the client comprising ~~is comprised of a combination of~~ a web browser and
custom software, wherein at least one of the web browser and the custom software
~~which~~ permits real-time inventory display.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1,
~~wherein~~ the client comprising ~~is comprised of a combination of~~ a web browser and
custom software, wherein at least one of the web browser and the custom software
~~which~~ permits real-time inventory control.
8. (Currently Amended) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1,
~~wherein~~ the client comprising ~~is comprised of a combination of~~ a web browser and
custom software, wherein at least one of the web browser and the custom software
permits ~~for~~ real-time inventory display, monitoring, and control.
9. (Currently Amended) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1,
~~wherein~~ said client comprising ~~includes~~ a device capable of reading container labels.
10. (Currently Amended) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim ~~4~~ 9,
~~wherein~~ said device comprising ~~client includes~~ a barcode scanner.
11. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information system of Claim 1,
wherein the client periodically requests inventory updates from the server.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of real-time inventory item status and information

dissemination, comprising the steps of:

recording in an inventory database a quantity on-hand for a plurality of inventory items;

recording in the inventory database a first order for a first ~~at least one~~ inventory item ~~order~~ and the corresponding order properties, the corresponding order properties comprising including quantities a first quantity ordered, a date ordered, and at least one of an anticipated delivery time; and an anticipated delivery date, wherein the at least one inventory item first order represents an order placed with a supplier;

recording in the inventory database ~~any~~ a second quantity of second inventory items received from ~~a the supplier or returned by a customer~~ by at least incrementing the corresponding on-hand inventory item quantity corresponding to the second inventory item, wherein the on-hand inventory item quantity is incremented in an amount equal to the second quantity; ~~quantities;~~

~~receiving~~ storing information associated with at least one purchase request for a third quantity of a third ~~at least one~~ inventory item, wherein the storing step comprises and placing a corresponding quantity of inventory items on reserve by incrementing the an on reserve inventory item quantity by an amount corresponding to the third quantity for the third inventory item; ~~each inventory item in the at least one purchase request;~~

receiving from a client at least one request for information about a fourth ~~selected~~ inventory item;

calculating an inventory item quantity available for delivery for the ~~selected~~ fourth inventory item as a difference between ~~the an~~ inventory item quantity on-hand and ~~the an~~ inventory item quantity on reserve for the ~~selected~~ fourth inventory item;

displaying on the client the inventory item quantity available for delivery for the ~~selected~~ fourth inventory item; and,

transmitting via a wireless communications means from the server to the client the
~~pushing an~~ updated inventory item quantity available for delivery for the ~~selected~~
fourth inventory item ~~to the client in real time when an~~ the inventory item quantity
available for the fourth inventory item changes, thereby providing the client with
real-time access to inventory information about the fourth inventory item;

displaying on the client the updated inventory item quantity for the fourth inventory
item.; ~~and,~~

~~decrementing both reserve and on hand inventory item totals in the inventory database~~
~~upon shipment of an inventory item.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination
method of Claim 12, ~~in which~~ wherein said ~~inventory item~~ first orders are entered
through an accounting system.

14. (Currently Amended) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination
method of Claim 13, wherein said accounting system automatically updates the
corresponding order properties in the inventory database.

15. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination
method of Claim 12, wherein electronically readable codes corresponding to
inventory items are used as a basis for recording inventory items as they are received,
returned, or shipped.

16. (Previously Presented) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination
method of Claim 15, in which said electronically readable codes are Universal
Product Code (UPC) codes.

17. (Canceled)

RESPONSE

Examiner: GORT, Elaine L.

Serial No. 09/769,294
Atty. Docket No.: 53881.010100

18. (Currently Amended) The real time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 12, further comprising the step of reading an electronically readable code corresponding to ~~an~~ a sixth inventory item as the sixth inventory item is shipped.
19. (Canceled)
20. (New) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 12, further comprising recording in the inventory database any inventory items returned by a customer by at least incrementing the on-hand inventory item quantity corresponding to the returned inventory items.
21. (New) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 12, wherein the first inventory item, the second inventory item, the third inventory item, and the fourth inventory item represent the same inventory item.
22. (New) The real-time inventory status and information dissemination method of Claim 12, further comprising decrementing in the inventory database both reserve and on hand inventory item totals corresponding to a fifth inventory item upon shipment of the fifth inventory item, wherein the reserve and on hand inventory item totals are decremented by an amount equal to the quantity of the fifth inventory items in the shipment.
23. (New) A real-time inventory information system, comprising:
- a client, wherein the client comprises a browser, and wherein the browser provides a user interface through which updated inventory information about a selected inventory item can be displayed;
 - an inventory database, wherein the inventory database comprises inventory information about a plurality of inventory items, wherein the inventory

RESPONSE

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information for each of the plurality of inventory items comprises quantity on hand, quantity on order, and quantity on reserve; and,

a server, wherein the server monitors changes to the inventory information about the selected inventory item in the inventory database and transfers at least a subset of the updated inventory information to the client as such changes occur, thereby providing the client with real-time access to the inventory information.